

Midwestern State University  
Department of Computer Science  
Spring 2021

**Course Information**

Course syllabus: Artificial Intelligence  
Course number: CMPS 4233.  
Course Section: 201.  
Class Days: 9:30 am to 10:50 am, Tuesday, and Thursdays.  
Classroom: Bolin 320.

**Instructor Information**

Instructor's Name: Doctor Eduardo Colmenares.  
Instructor's office: Bolin Hall, office 126C.  
Instructor's email: [eduardo.colmenares@msutexas.edu](mailto:eduardo.colmenares@msutexas.edu)

**Office Hours**

All office hours will be virtual via zoom.  
Monday: 8:30 am to 9:30 am and 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.  
Tuesday: 11 am to noon  
Wednesday: 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.  
Thursday: 11 am to noon  
Friday: Research Day, no office hours.

**ZOOM information**

[Zoom Link](#)

**Course Description**

This course provides a strong introduction to multiple topics of relevance in the area of Artificial Intelligence (Machine & Deep Learning, Data Science). The student will familiarize with important concepts such as gradient descent, forward and back-propagation, neuron, layer, batch, among many others. Once these concepts have been mastered the student will be able to not only use but also understand what the function calls from different AI Frameworks such as Tensorflow & Keras are doing.

The student is expected to become familiar with multiple software tools that are not only helpful in AI but also in other fields of science such as Data Science.

**Textbook (not required)**

Material from multiple books will be used by your instructor, that is the reason why not just one book will be used. Additional class material will be extracted from up to date, relevant and friendly open source resources.

**Required Software**

Initially: Jupyter notebook, Anaconda python (python 3 not 2), Keras, Tensorflow, scipy, numpy. As the semester progresses your instructor will let you know if additional software is needed.

## Required Hardware:

A regular traditional computer with camera. No android devices, No chrome books.

## Evaluation Process

The final grade for this course will be based on participation, projects and exams. A description is provided below:

- You will have two tests (T1 and T2), plus one final exam (FE). T1 and T2 are worth 18 percent each, the final exam is worth 14 percent.
- You will have a Final project in which you will apply many of the learned concepts. This project is worth 12 percent.
- The next category is participation. This will count for 7 percent of your final grade. Please be aware that this category includes in-class-activities (ICAs) and quizzes. Below you will find additional information about this category.
  - Assignments given in class, also known as in-class-activities (ICAs) will be unannounced in nature.
  - Quizzes will be non-pop-up quizzes. There are three potential formats for our Quizzes, the instructor decides which format to use and when.
    - Format 1 (online quizzes): if this option is used then you are required to use D2L to take the quiz.
    - Format 2 (online but by hand): You will be required to print the document and scan it.
    - Format 3: Traditional in class hard copy.
  - No makeup participation assignments are given.
  - Arriving late, leaving early to class voids the right to take a quiz or in class activity if it already started or it is about to start. This will be enforced.
- Attendance will be a component of your grade, more details below.

## Attendance

- Attendance is a component of the course grade (six percent). Each student will begin with 100 points for their attendance grade. For each additional unexcused absence, 25 points will be subtracted from the attendance grade.
- Your instructor will go over the class roster at the beginning of class and will call the students by name, if the student is not present at that time an absence will be given and not removed after arrival. The Attendance grade is 100% under the student's control.
- Additional class attendance related MSU Policies will be applied.

## Evaluation Process Summary Table

Category	Percentage
Test 1	18%
Test 2	18%
Final Exam	14%
Homework	25%
Participation (Quizzes)	7%
Attendance	6%
Project	12%

## Grading Policy

90 to 100 points is an A.

80 to 89.99 points is a B.

70 to 79.99 points is a C.

60 to 69.99 points is a D.

0 to 59.99 points is an F.

## Required Hardware

- Regular traditional PC/Mac. Chromebooks are NOT allowed since they do not work really well with D2L.
- At home printer and paper

## Scanning Capabilities

Students are required to have access to scanning capabilities from day one until the end of the semester and at all times. The scanning of documents may play a critical part in our tests, final exam, homeworks and quizzes. If you have a smartphone you can take advantage of free scanner apps. Please download the one of your choice and familiarize with it ahead of time.

## Tests

Tests are comprehensive in nature. No make-up exams will be given, except for the following cases:

- Properly documented Surgery, Medical Emergency, Death in the family, Presentation at a Conference, some others as determined by the instructor.
- If you miss an exam, the make-up exam you need to notify the instructor and demonstrate with the proper official documentation (signatures, seals, contact information) that an emergency that you could not circumvent existed. This documentation must be presented not later than 24 hours after the test.
  - a. Students who miss an exam due to University business should notify the instructor in advance, and present the sponsoring university member's written justification.
  - b. If your instructor cannot verify or validate the given documentation, then it will consider invalid and no make-up exam will be given.

If you do miss an exam and your case fall in one of the categories above (a), (b), it means that you have a properly documented case. Your instructor will proceed then to design a make-up exam. Be aware that exams are unique, this means that the questions that you will be presented in the make-up exam will be different and this may affect its complexity. This substitution can only be performed once during the semester. Exams are uniquely composed for each term.

## Final Exam

- There is no make-up final exam. The final exam will take place in our regular classroom (unless decide otherwise by the University). It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the designated date, time. A complete list of all MSU exams (by time) can be found at [Final Exam Schedule](#).
- The date of our final exam is Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.
- For the final exam students are required have scanner like capabilities. Please prepare well ahead of time, setup your system and have it ready to be used.
- If you have a smartphone you can take advantage of free scanner apps. Please download the one of your choice and familiarize with it ahead of time.

## No Procrastination Policy

Students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours to clarify questions associated with lectures, exams, assignments, presentations, quizzes, homework, etc. Questions are more than welcome from the moment the assignment is released and stop the day before the assignment, exam, quiz, presentation is due.

## Late Policy & Deadlines

- Submitted work is due when specified, as specified (format) by the instructor. It is in the student's best interest to keep track of all deadlines.
- The instructor is not required to remind students of ANY date and/or deadline associated with tests, homework, reports, project assignment, etc.
- **Late assignments WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This rule will be enforced**
  - **What does it mean to be late?** Answer: for example, if your assignment is due today at 8:00 am and you attempt to deliver your report by 8:00:01 am (1 second late) then it will be considered late. There will not be exemptions of any kind.
  - **Assignments MUST be submitted to the corresponding Dropbox via D2L before it closes (deadline).** If the Dropbox has closed and you cannot upload your assignment to it, then you are late and your assignment will not be accepted.
  - Students will have more than enough time to complete their assignment on time.
  - Internet outage, computer problems, car problems, work, and several others are NOT a valid excuse for a late delivery.
- Very Important: Before you submit any file, take your time and double OR triple check that
  - a. You are uploading the correct and ALL necessary files
  - b. Your work is correct at the best of your abilities
  - c. Failure to fulfill (a) and (b) ON TIME, WILL NOT excuse you from a bad grade.

Please let your instructor know if you are going to miss a class for academically related extracurricular activities. If this is the case you must present the sponsoring university member's written justification before your absence occurs.

## Additional Grade Policy

Once the grades, have been either returned to the students, or published via D2L, the student will have one week to examine them and check for inconsistencies, errors, etc. After the one week window of opportunity all grades will become PERMANENT and WILL NOT change. It is not only the student's responsibility to check the accuracy of his/her grades, but also in his/her best interest to do it. This rule DOES NOT apply to the final exam because the final is exam triple checked by the instructor before publishing the grade.

## Important Information about our grading policy

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the grade distributions for the whole class.

## Departmental Cheating Policy and Ethical Conduct

### Policy on Academic Honesty

The Department of Computer Science had adopted the following policy related to cheating (academic misconduct). The policy will be applied to all instances of cheating on assignments and exams as determined by the instructor of the course.

- 1st instance of cheating in a course: The student will be assigned a non-replaceable grade of zero for the assignment, project or exam. In addition, the student will receive a one letter grade reduction in course.
- 2nd instance of cheating in a course: The student will receive a grade of F in course & immediately be removed from course.
- All instances of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair and, in the case of graduate students, to the Department Graduate Coordinator.

### **Policy on Testing Process**

The Department of Computer Science has adopted the following policy related to testing.

- a) All bags, purses, electronics (turned off), books, etc. will be placed in the front of the room during exams, or in an area designated by the instructor.
- b) Unless otherwise announced by the instructor, nothing is allowed on the desk but pen/pencil/eraser and test papers.
- c) You are not allowed to leave the classroom. Please take this seriously and into consideration before any test and the final. Prepare yourself to be in the classroom during the entire exam.
- d) If you decide to leave the classroom during a test and/or the final exam, your exam will be collected, and you will not be allowed to continue.

### **Classroom Civility**

All violations of classroom civility will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to ensure that all students gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction, e.g. leaving the room for extended periods of time, reading newspapers (or other articles), working on other courses, and using cell-phones or laptops for calls or messages. If you indulge in any such inappropriate behavior (without explicit consent of the instructor), you will (at the very least) be asked to leave the classroom. [MSU Dean of Students Website](#).

### **Student with Disabilities**

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from disability support office during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Disability Support Office has been provided. For additional information you may contact the Disability Support Office in Clark Student Center 168 - Phone: (940) 397-4140.

[Disability Support Services](#).

### **Dean of Students**

The Dean of Students can assist in notifying the campus community of student illnesses, immediate family deaths and/or student death. Generally, in cases of student illness or immediate family deaths, the notification to the appropriate campus community members occur when a student is absent from class for four consecutive days with appropriate verification. It is the student's responsibility for missed class assignments and/or course work during their absence. [MSU Dean of Students Website](#).

## **RECORDING OF CLASS LECTURES**

Permission must be requested in writing & obtained from the instructor before recording of class lectures. If permission is granted, the recording may only be used by the student making the recording. Recordings may NOT be posted on any internet source without written permission of the instructor. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in removal from the course with a grade of F or other appropriate punishment.

## **University's Campus Carry**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry](#).

## **University COVID-19 Policy**

All members of the MSU Texas Community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors and contractors) are required to wear protective face coverings on campus or in University facilities as provided below:

- I. Requirements
  - a. In common areas on campus including, but not limited to, classrooms and other spaces used for teaching, research, and creative activity, student center, library, hallways, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, break rooms, foyers, event rooms and lobbies;
  - b. Other areas where physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained. Even when physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained, face coverings are strongly recommended.
- II. Exceptions
  - a. When eating or drinking, which should still be conducted maintaining physical distance;
  - b. In accordance with applicable law (e.g., an accommodation, including for medical reasons, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or pursuant to a bona fide religious belief)
  - c. For children under the age of 2 years old; or
  - d. By an instructor/presenter in a classroom or event room when a physical distance of at least 10 feet can be maintained from the class members/audience

## **Additional COVID 19-Policy**

In order to protect your wellbeing and the one of those that you care about, the following preventive measurements will take place:

- a) Office hours will be virtual via ZOOM. Check your syllabus for detailed office hours.
- b) Your Instructor will not touch any computer or USB Drive. NO Exemptions.
- c) Questions associated with ADVISING, degree plans, etc., will be addressed (Virtually-ZOOM) during office hours.

## **Research and Creative Activity Opportunities at MSU**

Enhancing Undergraduate Research Endeavors and Creative Activities (EURECA) is a program that provides opportunities for undergraduates to engage in high-quality research and creative activities with faculty. EURECA provides incentives and funding through a system that supports faculty and students engaged in collaborative research and creative works. For more information contact the Office of Undergraduate Research at (940) 397-6274 or by email at

[eureca@mwsu.edu](mailto:eureca@mwsu.edu) or better yet, stop by the UGR office located in the atrium of the Clark Student Center, room 161. Information and resources are also available at [Eureca's website](#)

### **Undergraduate Research Opportunities and Summer Workshop (UGROW)**

Like EURECA, UGROW provides opportunities for students to conduct research with faculty. However, the research occurs in the summer. For five weeks UGROW students experience the authenticity of scientific research as well as research and creative activities in art, music, theater education, business, health and social sciences, English, history, etc. in a highly interdisciplinary environment. Students work on projects of their choice and present their findings at the end of program at the MSU Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Undergraduate Research at (940) 397-6274 or by email at [eureca@mwsu.edu](mailto:eureca@mwsu.edu). More information and resources are available at [ugrow's website](#)

### **Council on Undergraduate Research**

To support undergraduate research and creative activities, Midwestern State University holds an enhanced institutional membership with the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). This institutional membership includes unlimited memberships for any interested faculty, staff, and students. Students find information on benefits and resources at [the council for undergraduate research website](#) and sign up at no cost at [this website](#).

I would like to personally invite you to become a member of CUR so that you benefit from all the opportunities CUR offers to you.

CUR Undergraduate Resources Webpage contains:

- Research Opportunities;
- Presentation Opportunities;
- Undergraduate Research Journals;
- CUR-Sponsored Student Events;
- The Registry of Undergraduate Researchers;
- And more!

### **ScholarBridge**

Midwestern State University is excited to announce a new resource designed to address a commonly expressed student need—the creation of a centralized searchable database of faculty research interests and opportunities. We have entered into a partnership with [ScholarBridge](#), is a website designed to help students participate in undergraduate research and creative activities. I strongly encourage you to join ScholarBridge at your earliest convenience.

### **Tentative Agenda**

The following is an aggressive and overoptimistic agenda, the instructor reserves the right to add, remove, reorder topics as he considered convenient towards the benefit of the class. The instructor may spend more time than initially thought in some of the sections in order to provide a strong foundation in those concepts. By the end of the semester you will have a very good understanding of several of the following categories and multiple non mentioned subcategories.

1. Syllabus
2. Neural Networks and Deep Learning

3. Hyperparameter tuning, Regularization and Optimization
4. Structuring Machine Learning Projects
5. Convolutional Neural Networks